

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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CHANCELLOR RAAB ADVOCATES CONTINUATION OF SOUND ECONOMIC POLICIES.

Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab declared at a meeting of the Austrian People's party that Austria's stabilization policies had banished the danger of inflation and resulted in a general recovery of the Austrian economy, the final result of which was the tax reduction carried out on January 1, 1954. He called this tax reduction a genuine policy in behalf of the little man. On the subject of liberalization, he admitted that such measures were not pleasant for any branch of industry but emphasized that there must be no high protective tariffs for industries which prefer to use the lazy man's approach. Pointing to the need for a greater increase in production if Austria is to maintain and expand its position in the world-wide competitive struggle, the Chancellor advocated opposition to superfluous and unjustifiable price increases as well as to superfluous demands for wage increases. Only then, he said, will Austria's economy be able to recover completely and grow strong.

Austria Would Demand Reduction in Occupying Forces if Berlin Conference Fails

Turning to foreign policy, Chancellor Raab declared that Austria would wage an unwavering fight for her state treaty in 1954. He indicated that if the Berlin Conference brought no satisfactory results the Austrian Government would make a strong appeal to the Soviet and American occupying powers to reduce their troop contingents to a symbolic force. "Austria's future will depend on the strength with which we believe in our country," the Chancellor concluded.

FOREIGN MINISTER FIGL EMPHASIZES AUSTRIA'S ALLEGIANCE TO A UNITED EUROPE.

An important address by Foreign Minister Leopold Figl was the highlight of a demonstration of Austrian university students in behalf of a united Europe which was held at Vienna University. By way of introduction, Dr. Figl declared that the idea of combining the numerous smaller and larger nations of Europe, with their often contradictory economic and political interests, into an all-embracing structure was one of the most revolutionary ideas ever conceived in the sphere of politics. The idea of a united Europe was once regarded as utopian but today's younger generation considers the preservation of permanent peace, and with it of security, by means of a supranational community, to be something entirely within reach of attainment.

(Cont'd on page 3)

TO OUR READERS

With this issue, AUSTRIAN INFORMATION reaches you with a change in its masthead. The new publisher is the Austrian Information Service, which will endeavor to keep you informed of the latest news and items of interest from and about Austria.

At this juncture, the Austrian Information Service takes occasion to recapitulate its activities throughout the United States, and the services it is providing you on a permanent basis. In the sense of constituting a channel of public opinion between the United States and Austria, the Austrian Information Service is a press relations office. In addition, it addresses itself to the task of building public relations on behalf of all things Austrian in every field of activity by promoting them. The Service seeks to form a bridge between Austrian and American activities in the fields of politics, economics, the arts, science and education. In all of these fields, it is working to promote the flow of information and cement relations between the two countries.

Trade information about Austria, and the advancement of trade between the United States and Austria, are within the province of the Austrian Trade Delegate, whose office publishes the *Austrian Trade Bulletin*, included monthly in AUSTRIAN INFORMATION.

Information and publicity on travel in Austria are available from the Austrian State Tourist Department in New York, which separately publishes *Austrian Travel News*.

All of these Austrian agencies will be happy to have the privilege of serving you further.

The Editor

DR. KARL GRUBER APPOINTED AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

According to an announcement by Foreign Minister Leopold Figl to the Austrian Cabinet, Dr. Karl Gruber has been appointed new Austrian Ambassador in Washington. Dr. Gruber will assume his position at the beginning of March. The American Government has already given its approval.

AUSTRIA'S FAVORABLE PAYMENTS BALANCE IN E.P.U. REACHES 96.1 MILLION DOLLARS.

In December 1953 Austria's balance in the European Payments Union reached the sum of 7.8 million dollars, thereby bringing her total credit balance of payments in the EPU to 96.1 million dollars; this figure exceeds by 1.1 million dollars the ceiling recently al-

lowed Austria (in the matter of granting credits — Ed.). It is expected that during the second half of January the Directorate of the EPU will deal with Austria's favorable balance of payments and determine whether, and under what conditions, Austria should be entitled to raise her credit ceiling. On the strength of her favorable EPU balance, Austria has already carried out a 50-percent liberalization of her import quotas, a measure which has thus far had no significant influence on her trade balance with the member countries of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC).

FULL AUSTRIAN CO-DETERMINATION AT BERLIN CONFERENCE DEMANDED. In an editorial on the forthcoming Four-Power Conference in Berlin, the Vienna newspaper "Neues Oesterreich" states editorially that, as things now stand, Austria's fate would again be sealed by foreign powers, just as at St. Germain after the First World War, even though this time she is not in the role of a vanquished nation facing the victors but rather in that of a liberated country in the presence of her liberators. The paper observes that the Austrian delegation invited to Berlin will at most participate only in an advisory capacity, in connection with any matters on which the Allies are not informed, but that none of its members will be invited to take part in the actual negotiations.

This policy of "about us but without us," writes the paper, has had frightful consequences in the recent past, to the detriment of Austria, as well as to that of the world and to world peace. Citing specific examples, it mentions as the most prominent one that of the Western Powers' agreement at the Potsdam Conference to Russia's claims on the so-called German assets in Austria, emphasizing that this consent was given without hearing Austria's side of the issue. It declares that the results have been disastrous and have already caused the Western Powers, as well as Austria, great financial losses and even greater headaches. Similarly, it attributes the failure to reach any results in connection with the Austrian State Treaty to the fact that in most cases Austria was not consulted during the negotiations.

"It is high time that Austria be invited to the negotiations as a contractual partner," writes Neues Oesterreich, adding that "right now, on the eve of the Berlin Conference, there is good reason to press this matter with particular emphasis." The paper supports its argument by pointing out that since 1945, in spite of the occupation, Austria has not only achieved economic consolidation but has also developed political unity and cohesion in the field of government policy, the stability of which in the European family of nations is no longer disputed.

The paper writes in conclusion: "Shall foreign powers now make decisions about this country and its future, about us but without us? We must demand with all firmness and explicitness that whenever Austria is the subject of discussion at the Berlin Conference of the four Foreign Ministers the Austrian Government be invited to participate as a fifth partner."

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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION*

WESTERN POWERS EMPHASIZE THEIR DESIRE TO OBTAIN AUSTRIA'S FREEDOM. In mid-January the Ambassadors of the three Western Powers submitted notes to the Austrian Government in which the United States, Great Britain and France reply to Austria's latest appeal calling for consideration and solution of the Austrian question at the Four-Power Conference in Berlin.

The note of the American Government declares that the United States supports the persevering efforts of the Austrian people to obtain an early conclusion of the state treaty. It was with this in mind, the note goes on to state, that the American Government declared at the time of its proposal for a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four Great Powers that a treaty with Austria would undoubtedly represent an important chapter in an overall European settlement — a chapter which would be viewed by the U.S. Government as a substantial contribution to peace — and that agreement concerning such a treaty should be reached as soon as a meeting of the four Foreign Ministers took place. The note states that the Government of the United States, in five additional notes to the Soviet Union, has repeatedly expressed its firm conviction that a treaty with Austria should be concluded at the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers. The American note declares in conclusion that the Austrian Government can rest assured that there has been no change in the intention of the U.S. Government to seek and exploit every opportunity to restore to Austria the political and economic independence she so obviously deserves. It adds that the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Berlin would afford such an opportunity and that the Austrian Government may be certain that its endeavors there will be given every support by the United States.

The British and French notes are generally similar in content to that of the United States. However, the British note adds: Her Majesty's Government views the Austrian and German problems as separate and different questions and intends to defend this view emphatically, whenever necessary. The French note states that the restoration of Austria's sovereignty and independence, so urgently and justly desired, is viewed by the French Government as an important contribution to the stability of Europe and to the strengthening of peace.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES READINESS TO SOLVE AUSTRIAN QUESTION WITH PARTICIPATION OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. On January 17 a Soviet note, replying to an Austrian note of January 5, was handed the Austrian Ambassador in Moscow. Its main contents are as follows:

"The Soviet Government has always advocated the promptest possible solution of the Austrian question, with due regard for existing decisions of the four Powers, and it considers the immediate restoration of a free and independent Austria to be indispensable in the interest of strengthening peace in Europe and guaranteeing the national rights of the Austrian people.

"In connection with the wish of the Austrian Government as expressed in the aforementioned note, the Soviet Government considers it essential to express its readiness to do

everything in its power to bring about a final solution of the Austrian question. It is self-evident that successful resolution of the issue in question and of the pertinent negotiations on the Austrian treaty with the participation of the Austrian Government will depend on the extent to which all the participants in the said negotiations really strive to find a solution that will further the restoration of a free and independent Austria and the interests of strengthening peace in Europe."

AUSTRIA AND WESTERN POWERS RALLY TO THE AID OF AVALANCHE VICTIMS. The coincidence of a number of unfavorable meteorological conditions, which usually do not occur together, led to a series of catastrophic avalanches in Austria's Alpine regions of which Austrian farmers were the principal victims. Snowslides completely buried a number of farms and killed several farmer families. There are no tourists amongst the victims.

Thousands of emergency crews were organized to come to the assistance of threatened areas and those already snowed under. For days the entire Austrian nation was engaged in a defensive battle against the danger of snowslides. The Austrian Government issued an appeal to the Austrian people, which read in part as follows: "Villages which for centuries have been spared from avalanches were this time sorely afflicted as a result of the coincidence of adverse conditions. We have a great number of deaths to mourn, many people have lost their homes and property, many of them are in hospitals, often with serious injuries. The federal and provincial governments will make every effort to ease the lot of the victims. The extent of the damage is so great, however, that private aid is also needed. The Federal Government calls on all Austrians to come to the aid of the destitute victims. Above all, it is requesting contributions of money. The Federal Government is convinced that the often demonstrated readiness of the Austrian people to extend help will prove itself once again and make it possible to furnish new homes for the victims of the disaster, above all, for the mountain farmers."

By decree of Mayor Jonas, the City of Vienna started an emergency collection in behalf of the disaster victims. The drive was opened with a contribution by the municipality in the amount of 100,000 schillings.

Upon instructions from their respective governments, U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, British Ambassador Sir Harold Caccia and the Acting French Ambassador Roger Laloulouette, visited Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and expressed the sympathy of their countries for the victims of the avalanche disasters. Ambassador Thompson announced that American troops were already engaged in relief operations and gave promises of further assistance. The British and French Ambassadors also announced that their governments were prepared to participate in the relief measures. The Austrian Foreign Minister had cordial words of thanks for the readiness of the West to be of assistance and requested the Ambassadors to transmit to their governments the gratitude of the Austrian Federal Government.

The Governments of Denmark, Holland, Norway and Sweden also expressed their sympathy to the Austrian Govern-

ment. King Baudouin of Belgium, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, French President Auriol and Prince Franz Joseph II of Liechtenstein sent telegrams to Austrian President Theodor Koerner expressing their personal sympathy.

Upon instructions of the Austrian Government, Undersecretary Bock made a tour of inspection of the area affected by the avalanches and reported that rescue operations, often involving danger to life, were proceeding in exemplary fashion. He said that U.S. Armed Forces as well as private individuals abroad have made several helicopters available for the rescue work. In spite of all emergency action taken, however, the number of dead will exceed 110, Dr. Bock reported.

CESSATION OF ECONOMIC AID TO AUSTRIA WILL NO LONGER PRESENT ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

In a lecture in Zurich on Austrian economic questions, Austrian Finance Minister Reinhard Kamitz declared that the cessation of American economic aid to Austria would no longer present any serious problems. He said that Austria has placed her economic and financial structure on a firm footing and that she is prepared to meet conscientiously all obligations she has assumed. Adding that the Austrian people are aware that the respect of the world cannot be won by requests for foreign aid but only by hard work and conscientious fulfillment of all obligations assumed, the Minister emphasized that during the past few years the country had succeeded in putting its house in order, despite a four-power occupation and the lack of border control. He declared that the future will show that Austria is capable of assuming that position in the community of nations to which she is entitled by virtue of her natural wealth, the skill of her people and her outstanding traditions.

Figl on United Europe (Cont'd from p. 1)

On the other hand, Dr. Figl continued, it would be an ill service to the European movement to overlook the tremendous difficulties which remain to be overcome. Declaring that the European movement is today confined to Western Europe, he recalled that the entire world is cut up by dividing lines which have been established by a certain political ideology. One of these dividing lines, part of it even consisting of barbed-wire entanglements, he said, runs through the center of Europe along the eastern and north-eastern borders of Austria, only 60 kilometers from Vienna.

As far as Austria is concerned, Minister Figl went on to say, her very historical past provides her with all the prerequisites for understanding the idea of unification of nations. Declaring that Austrian youth pledges full and complete allegiance to European unity, Dr. Figl concluded: "If there are any who still maintain that it is in the nature of youth to want to fight, let this will to fight reach its fulfillment in the future, too, however not in the form of combat with weapons of destruction but in the form of physical and moral competition in sports arenas, of intellectual competition in scientific institutions, and in the field of politics when it is a matter of defending the freedom of man against the arguments of force."

WAR AND OCCUPATION DAMAGE TOTAL 82 BILLION SCHILLINGS. The latest issue of the magazine "Oesterreichische Monatshefte," just published, offers a statistical survey of all the damage which Austria has suffered as a result of the war and the occupation. According to its figures, Austria has suffered damage amounting to 82 billion schillings since the outbreak of World War Two. This sum is broken down as follows: 41 billion schillings in losses incurred by the federal, provincial and municipal treasuries; 11 billion in losses to private property; 4.5 billion in losses to businesses involving former German assets; 4.4 billion schillings in losses to Austrian and foreign property; 4.5 billion schillings representing the value of the private enterprises confiscated by the Soviets and, slightly more than one billion, representing the value of the state enterprises confiscated by the Soviets. The value of Austrian oil and oil products thus far confiscated by the Soviets is estimated at approximately 761 million schillings; the loss from customs duties which the Soviets have not paid comes to 1.4 billion schillings; the loss from taxes and other assessments not paid by the Soviets is 2.2 billion schillings; the establishment of Russian retail stores has resulted in a loss of 700 million schillings. In addition, the Soviets have confiscated 246 million schillings' worth of rolling stock, as well as the assets of the Danube Steamship Company, worth 6.9 billion schillings.

HUNGARY STEPS UP COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA BROADCAST TO AUSTRIA. New radio transmitters which have been placed in operation by Hungary are engaged in beaming continuous German-language programs toward Austria. Among these transmitters - in addition to Radio Budapest - are the new installations at Strass-Sommerein and Magyarovar. The programs consist exclusively of Communist hate propaganda in which members of the Austrian Government are abused and the Austrian Communists incited to engage in open resistance against Austrian democracy and to sabotage Austria's economy.

COMMUNIST "RESTITUTION COMMISSIONS" SNOOP UNDER SOVIET PROTECTION. According to reports in Vienna newspapers, so-called Hungarian, Czech and Polish "restitution committees," enjoying the protection of the Soviet occupation force, have entered the Soviet zone of Austria and are carrying on their operations there. They are demanding machinery and materials which Austrian firms had ordered in these countries through normal channels and paid for in full. In reply to earlier Austrian objections to activity of this kind, the governments of the three afore-mentioned states had repeatedly promised to halt such methods. The present situation shows that this promise has not been kept. Moreover, Austria still has to pay the snooping commissions from Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia some 300,000 schillings per year to cover their expenditures. The Vienna press cites a number of concrete examples in which Czech, Hungarian and Polish commissions demand restitution by Austrian firms of plant installations for which these had made due payment. The Hungarian commission also wants to examine the books of

Austrian banking institutions and is even making claims on Austrian rolling stock. According to expert estimates, Austria has lost approximately four billion schillings worth of machinery and other valuable material through the activity of these commissions. This figure does not include the losses which Austria suffered as a result of Communist removals during the first months after the war.

PRELIMINARY WORK ON YBBS-PERSENBEUG POWER PLANT PROCEEDING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. Some of the preliminary work for the construction of the Ybbs-Persenbeug Danube power plant has already been concluded. A cement factory, a gravel preparation plant, a cable railway for material, several bridges and a concrete highway have already been constructed. The remaining preparatory work is expected to be completed by the summer of 1954. The date for starting construction of the plant itself has therefore been set for this summer. Thus far, 160 million schillings have been spent on the preparatory work. Construction of the plant will cost a total of 1.6 billion schillings. The storage dam of the plant will extend 36 kilometers (22.5 miles) up the Danube. The period of construction is expected to last 5½ years.

Following its completion, the Ybbs-Persenbeug power plant is expected to have an annual capacity of 1.2 billion kilowatt-hours, 43 percent of which would be produced during the winter. Ybbs-Persenbeug will therefore be the largest power plant in Europe.

It was ascertained during the preliminary work that, contrary to earlier estimates, the reservoir's permissible water level could be raised approximately one meter, which would make possible an increase of 100 million kilowatt-hours in the annual operating capacity of the completed plant. Well-equipped residential barracks have already been built for the 2,500 workers who will work on the project. The construction of the plant is also expected to result in a great influx of new settlers and tourists in this section of Lower Austria. Engineers, industrialists and building experts from the rest of Austria and from abroad, who are very interested in this gigantic project, are already arriving at the construction site almost daily.

WORLD'S MOST MODERN CELLULOSE PLANT OPERATING IN UPPER AUSTRIA. With the recent opening of its new cellulose works, the Nettingdorfer Paper Manufacturing Company in Upper Austria now has at its disposal the most modern installation of this kind in the entire world. The wood is expelled in conical form by an elevating piler, passes into a flotation canal - even in the severest winter weather -, is conveyed to the chopping chamber by means of an endless belt and then into the storage bins by means of a revolving screen. From here it is brought to the digesters by means of conveyor belts. The machinery for the new plant comes from the U. S., Sweden, Italy and Germany. The current daily capacity of the plant is 120 tons of soda cellulose, which represents 50 percent of Austria's entire output. Half of the soda cellulose will be processed into kraft paper for export purposes.

AUSTRIAN PAPER INDUSTRY TO BE GREATLY EXPANDED.

In 1953, the Austrian paper industry succeeded in carrying out expansion plans covering 80 percent of its entire investment program. The total estimated cost of the program amounted to approximately 1,438 million schillings and self-financing by the industry to the extent of 385 million schillings was provided, leaving 1,053 million to be raised in the form of loans. The investment program carried out by the industry in connection with ERP aid amounted to 1,273 million schillings. The direct aid granted under the Marshall Plan came to 3.76 million dollars. These funds were used primarily for expanding plant capacity and increasing productivity. It is expected that by 1957 the annual production capacity of the industry will be 350,000 tons of paper, 350,000 tons of cellulose, 130,000 tons of wood pulp and 88,000 tons of cardboard. The present employment figure for the paper industry stands at approximately 20,000, as against 15,584 workers in the year 1937.

The following are its most important export products: newsprint (66 percent of the total production), poster paper (45.7 percent), wrapping paper (17.5 percent), tissue and special papers (61 percent), other papers (46.5 percent), bleached cellulose (40.5 percent), unbleached cellulose (31.7 percent), and textile cellulose (23.4 percent).

Among the most important purchasers of these products are Italy (225 million schillings), Western Germany (184 million), Argentina (77 million), India (51 million), Switzerland (46 million), France (44 million), Egypt (34 million), Pakistan (29 million), England and Turkey (27 million each).

NEW AUSTRIAN AUXILIARY BICYCLE MOTOR DEVELOPED.

A Graz bicycle factory has developed a new auxiliary motor for bicycles whose principal feature is a new type of power transmission. Instead of using the usual bicycle chain, the new motor transmits its power by means of a plastic driving roller. The 1-HP motor has a piston displacement of 22 cc. and a fuel consumption of one liter per 100 kilometers (64 miles). With a noise intensity of only 62 decibels, the motor is also reported to be the quietest auxiliary motor in the world.

TURKEY ORDERS AUSTRIAN ASBESTOS CEMENT PRESSURE PIPES.

An order has been placed by the Turkish Government with the Eternit plant in Voecklabruck, Upper Austria, for 500,000 meters (1,640,000 ft.) of asbestos cement pressure pipes of various diameters. These pipes are to be used in the construction of water mains in Turkey. They will be shipped from Trieste on a Turkish freighter.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AUSTRIAN PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

The Central Austrian Statistical Office recently published detailed figures based on the census of June 1, 1951, with regard to the participation of Austrian women in professional life. These figures show that somewhat more than one-third of all Austrian women are engaged in some gainful pursuit. Austria has 3,716,665 women, who represent 54 percent of the total population. Of these, 1,267,919, or 34 percent, are wage-earners or professionally active.

Twelve percent of these women are self-employed, 34 percent help out in family business, farms or offices, while 54 percent are salaried.

Of particular interest is the percentage of married women in Austrian professional life. The figures showed that of 1,540,833 married women, 500,727, or 32 percent, earn an income. Of these, 13 percent are self-employed, 49 percent work in family businesses and 38 percent occupy salaried positions.

Of all the women in business or professional life, i.e., 1,267,919 persons, 39 percent were married. Among the self-employed, the figure for married women was 43 percent, among the employees of family enterprises 58 percent and among those occupying salaried positions 27 percent.

The statistics reveal that certain professional fields are especially favored by married Austrian women. For example, under the heading "self-employed," 59 percent of the women doctors, 58 percent of the midwives, 51 percent of the hotel and restaurant employees and 50 percent of the embroiderers were married. In the category of women working in family enterprises - 90 percent of whom are engaged in the field of agriculture and forestry - the proportion of married women is approximately 57 percent. In the salary-earning occupations, the greatest proportion of married women is in the staple and luxury food industry (45 percent), in the chemical and plastics industries (43 percent), in the iron and metal industries (42 percent), in the textile trades (42 percent), in the stone-extraction and processing industries (41 percent), in the leather industry (41 percent), and in the paper manufacturing and processing industry (40 percent). Among domestics, the figure was only 4 percent, among civil servants 15 percent, among nurses 17 percent, among social service workers 18 percent and among hotel and restaurant workers (i.e. those who are not self-employed) 18 percent - the percentage of married women in the latter groups being below the average of 27 percent.

The statistics show that, with very few exceptions, Austrian women are today represented in all professions. They are not only found in such patently female professions as secretarial work, teaching, social service work and nursing, as well as in all branches of the fashion industry, but also in fields which until recently were reserved exclusively for men. For instance, the statistics show that there are 802 women miners in Austria, 42 oil workers, 229 engineers, 47 stove-fitters and tile-layers, 33 chimneysweeps, 339 blacksmiths and wagon repairers, 1,066 plumbers, 24 type-setters, 195 printers, 427 millers, etc.

Also of interest is the large proportion of women in the scientific and academic professions. For instance, the list mentioned 291 women scientists and researchers, 1,406 journalists and writers, 1,143 plastic artists, 1,913 women doctors, 11 women veterinarians, 197 women lawyers, 689 dental technicians, etc.

The 555,965 farm women represent the largest female occupational group in Austria, followed by 77,978 saleswomen, 68,770 office workers, 60,353 cooks and domestic workers, 39,629 dressmakers, 24,632 teachers, 24,138 charwomen, 23,611 house superintendents, 22,912 hotel and restaurant workers, 22,543 medical and technical assistants and nurses, 19,538 bookkeepers and accountants, 15,545 weavers and carpet makers, and 14,949 textile workers.

VIENNA SPRING FAIR COMBINED WITH INTERNATIONAL AUTO EXHIBITION.

The following dates have been set for the various Austrian fairs: The Vienna Spring Fair will be held during the period of March 14-21. After an interruption of several years, the Vienna International Automobile Exhibition will again be held within the framework of this fair. The auto show will be divided into the following sections: passenger cars and trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, trailers, tires and accessories. The South-East Fair (Spring) will be held in Graz, Styria, from April 30 to May 9. The sixth Export, Sample and Textile Fair will take place in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg, from July 30 to August 8. The Vienna International Fall Fair will be held from September 12 to 19, and the South-East Fair (Fall) in Graz from September 25 to October 3.

NATIONAL BANK ISSUES NEW 500 SCHILLING NOTES.

The Austrian National Bank recently began to issue new bank notes with a denomination of 500 schilling. These are the first 500 schilling notes issued by the Second Republic.

BURTON HOLMES TO GIVE SIX TRAVEL TALKS ON AUSTRIA.

During February, the well-known world traveler Burton Holmes will include six talks on Vienna and Austria in his series of "Burton Holmes Travelogues." These lectures, illustrated with color slides made by Grant Wolfkill, give an excellent picture of Austria's present-day cultural and political situation, as well as of her natural beauties and cultural monuments. The program of lectures devotes particular attention to Vienna, the Salzkammergut, Bad Gastein, Innsbruck, the Zillertal and Kitzbuehel. The following is the schedule of lectures: February 16, Taft Auditorium, Cincinnati, Ohio; February 18, Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.; February 19, 20 and 22, Orchestra Hall, Chicago, Ill.; and Feb. 21, Pabst Theater, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

EXTENSIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN VIENNA FESTIVAL.

The Vienna Konzerthaus Society is arranging an impressive series of modern music concerts at the Vienna Festival which is to be held from May 28 to June 19, 1954. Among other things, there will be performances of all the works of Alban Berg as well as many compositions of Igor Stravinsky. An evening of ballets, based on music by Stravinsky, will be directed by Anthony Tudor, a British associate of George Balanchine, now living in the United States. Paul Hindemith is scheduled to conduct the first performance of his cantata based on Psalm 117 as well as other compositions based on works by Paul Claudel. He will also conduct his adaptation of Claudio Monteverdi's "Orfeo" for instruments of the period. Another outstanding conductor who is to appear at the Festival is Eugene Ormandy of the Philadelphia Orchestra, who will conduct the first performance of Ernst Krennek's "Medea," with Blanche Thebom in the solo part, as well as Sergei Prokofieff's Sixth Symphony. At another concert under Ormandy's direction, Alexander Brailovsky is to be the soloist in the performance of a

Rachmaninoff piano concerto, George Szell, conductor of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, will present Ernst Bloch's "Hamlet" and the "Concerto for the Left Hand" by Ravel, with Robert Cassadesus as soloist. Virgil Thompson, the well-known New York composer and music critic, is to conduct a concert of American chamber music. The RAI (Italian Radio) Orchestra of Turin, directed by Mario Rossi, will also take part in the Festival. The first performance of a new piano concerto by Gottfried Einem will be the feature work on a program conducted by Karl Boehm. Also scheduled are a concert of romantic music by the "Akademie-Kammerchor" and a number of performances of contemporary chamber music by Austrian and German composers.

PIANIST PAUL BADURA-SKODA MAKING GUEST TOUR OF U.S.

Paul Badura-Skoda, considered one of the foremost Austrian contemporary pianists, will make his only New York appearance this season in a concert at Town Hall on Saturday, February 6.

Following this concert, Mr. Badura-Skoda - who began his present series of U.S. recitals on December 5, 1953 - will resume his guest tour in accordance with the following schedule:

February

7 Newark, N.J.
9 Oberlin, Ohio
10 Memphis, Tenn.
15 Springfield, Mass.
17 Ann Arbor, Mich.
19 Wayne, Pa.
21 Delaware, Ohio
23 Boston, Mass.
25 Atlanta, Ga.

March

2 Houston, Tex.
4 Pensacola, Fla.
9 Tucson, Ariz.
16 San Bernardino, Cal.
18-21 Los Angeles, Cal.
23 Monrovia, Cal.
25 Modesto, Cal.
29 Provo, Utah
31 Lawrence, Kan.

PIANIST PAUL BADURA-SKODA WRITES BOOK ON MOZART INTERPRETATION.

Paul Badura-Skoda, the famous Viennese pianist now touring the United States, is completing the final chapter of his book to be entitled "Interpretations of Mozart's Piano Compositions." The book will be published in Vienna in the spring of 1954. The pianist has been assisted in his research work for the book by his wife Eva who, although only 22 years old, already has a degree of Doctor of Musical Science from the University of Vienna. Paul Badura-Skoda will give his only New York recital this season at Town Hall on February 6, 1954.

BREGENZ FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM JULY 24 TO AUGUST 15.

The Bregenz Festival, rapidly becoming one of the most popular of the European festivals, will this year offer as its spectacular "Spiel am See" (performance on the lake) a completely new production of Johann Strauss' popular "Fledermaus," performed by the ensemble of the Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Philharmonic under the baton of Anton Paulik. The choreography will be devised by Janine Cherrat of the Paris Ballet, who will also produce the other ballets featured at the Festival. "Die Fledermaus," one of

the most popular operettas in the entire world, is ideally suited for the fairytale glamour of a "Spiel am See" production, which takes place on a set of rafts anchored just off the shore of Lake Constance under a flood of multi-colored lights. The audience views the performance from an amphitheater at the water's edge. Last year, over 40,000 visitors from all over the world attended the Bregenz Festival.

The following is the program for this year's Bregenz Festival:

JULY

Saturday	24th	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake); 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Sunday	25th	Die Fledermaus (Bat), on the lake; 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Monday	26th	Serenade, 8:30 P.M., Martins-Square; Conductor: Hans Moltkau.
Tuesday	27th	Hamlet by Shakespeare, 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Wednesday	28th	Ballet by Janine Charrat, Paris; 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Thursday	29th	Hamlet by Shakespeare, 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Friday	30th	Hamlet by Shakespeare, 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Saturday	31st	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake), 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.

AUGUST

Sunday	1st	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake); 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Monday	2nd	Vienna Konzerthaus-Quartett: Schubert; 8:30 P.M., Goesser Hall.
Tuesday	3rd	1st Orchestral Concert: Beethoven's IXth Symphony; Bregenz Festival Chorus; Conductor: Ferdinand Leitner, 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Wednesday	4th	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake), 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Thursday	5th	Ballet by Janine Charrat, Paris; Conductor Anton Paulik, 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Friday	6th	2nd Orchestral Concert: Cherubini, Mozart and Bruckner; Conductor: Volkmar Andreae; 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Saturday	7th	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake), 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Sunday	8th	Matinee, 10:30 A.M.; Town Hall; Conductor: Hans Moltkau.
Sunday	8th	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss; 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Monday	9th	Ballet by Janine Charrat, Paris, 8:30 P.M., Town Hall; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Tuesday	10th	Strasbourg Cathedral Choir Concert: Berlioz and Mozart; Vorarlberg Radio Orchestra; Conductor: Alfons Hoch; 8:30 P.M., Town Hall.
Wednesday	11th	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake); 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Thursday	12th	Play by the Vienna Burgtheater to be decided upon at a later date.
Friday	13th	Play by the Vienna Burgtheater to be decided upon at a later date.
Saturday	14th	Die Fledermaus (Bat) by Johann Strauss (on the lake); 8:30 P.M.; Conductor: Anton Paulik.
Sunday	15th	Play by the Vienna Burgtheater to be decided upon at a later date.

Tickets will range from \$1.60 to \$3.00 for the Lake performances, the ballets and the plays. Concert tickets will be priced from \$0.80 to \$2.00. The tickets, to go on sale shortly,

will be sold through the Austrian State Tourist Department, 48 East 48th Street, New York. It is very important that hotel reservations be made as early as possible. For this reason, prospective visitors should contact their travel agents or write directly to the "Landesverband fuer Fremdenverkehr", Bregenz, Montfortstrasse 4, Austria, indicating the exact number of persons in their parties, the number of overnight accommodations desired and whether rooms in hotels, boarding houses or with private families are preferred. Such inquiries should be made by airmail, with enclosure of an International Return Mail coupon for airmail reply. When cables are sent, a 25-word night-letter reply should be prepaid. The Austrian State Tourist Department in New York will be pleased to give every assistance in obtaining accommodations for the Bregenz Festival.

STAGE OF VIENNA STATE OPERA TO BE READY FOR REHEARSAL USE BY FALL. Sektionsrat Ernst Marboe, the new head of the Austrian Federal Theater Administration, announced at a press conference that the stage of the Vienna State Opera House - which was destroyed during the war - will be completed by the fall of 1954 and then be available for rehearsals. It is estimated that the building as a whole will be completed in about a year, by which time - at the very latest - a musical director for the Opera will have to be appointed. Marboe listed the following Austrian conductors, in alphabetical order, as candidates for this post: Dr. Karl Boehm, Herbert Karajan, Erich Kleiber and Clemens Krauss. He also stated that the reopening of the old State Opera building would be the culmination of the years of work devoted to building up the repertory and ensemble. He said that the dedication of the house would be the equivalent of "a kind of Austrian coronation."

On the subject of the Vienna Burgtheater, which was severely damaged during the war, Marboe declared that this building was likewise to be reopened at the beginning of 1955, simultaneously with the State Opera House. He indicated that there would also be a new manager for the Burgtheater, since the present incumbent, Joseph Gielen, considers himself to be primarily a stage director and feels that his activity as such would be hindered by managerial responsibilities. No plans have yet been made, he said, with regard to the selection of the new Burgtheater manager. Sektionsrat Marboe concluded his press conference by pointing out that the reopening of the two world-famous Vienna cultural institutions, the State Opera and the Burgtheater, in 1955 would be a symbol of Austria's regeneration and future.

VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO RECORD ALL WORKS OF STRAUSS DYNASTY ON LP RECORDS. The "Johann Strauss Society" of Vienna has decided to have all of the works of the Strauss dynasty recorded on long-playing records. The project is to be carried out in conjunction with the Philips recording company. These works will be performed by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rudolf Moralt, Franz Salmhofer and Eduard Strauss, a great-grandson of Johann Strauss.

BOOK ON VIENNA STATE OPERA PUBLISHED. A history of the Vienna opera, entitled "Three Hundred Years of the Vienna State Opera" by Emil Pirchan, Alexander Witeschnik and Otto Fritz was published recently. The book covers the period from the Baroque court opera down to the present day. One chapter, dealing with statistical data, indicates that the opera most frequently performed at the Vienna house up to the end of 1952 was Verdi's "Aida" (726 performances). Wagner's "Lohengrin" comes next, with 719 performances. In the period between 1886 and 1952, however, it was the operas of Wagner which were most frequently played (3,713 performances), followed by those of Verdi (2,548), Mozart (1,885), Puccini (1,748) and Richard Strauss (1,077).

SCHUBERT'S "ALFONSO AND ESTRELLA" TO BE PERFORMED IN VIENNA. A concert performance of Franz Schubert's romantic opera "Alfonso and Estrella," which was last given at the Vienna Court Opera in 1884, is scheduled for presentation in Vienna in February 1954 under the direction of Victor Quirin Plasser conducting the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Chamber Chorus. Plasser has prepared a new adaptation of the opera in twenty-five scenes which was broadcast by Radio Vienna a few years ago. This opera was written by Schubert between September 1821 and February 1822, and the efforts to save it from oblivion are being greeted with considerable interest in Viennese musical circles.

HIGH SWEDISH DISTINCTION FOR AUSTRIAN MUSIC TEACHER. Fritz Tutenberg, the Austrian music educator, has been chosen as a life-long corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. Fritz Tutenberg is in charge of the classes in opera dramatics at the Mozarteum Academy in Salzburg.

DR. RICHARD STOEHR 80 YEARS OLD. Dr. Richard Stoehr, the internationally known author of textbooks on musical form and harmony, composer and former head of the composition department of the State Academy for Music and Dramatic Art in Vienna, will celebrate his 80th birthday on June 11, 1954. Dr. Stoehr has been invited by Professor Sitte of the Vienna Academy to attend a special concert in his honor this spring, when a number of his newer compositions will be performed. After teaching at the Curtiss Institute in Philadelphia and at the Cincinnati Conservatory, Professor Stoehr settled down in Vermont in 1940, where he has written three symphonies and several chamber music works, choruses, songs and solo instrumental pieces. Several of these works have been performed recently in various cities of the United States and Canada.

POPULAR TIROLESE AUTHOR DIES. Sebastian Rieger, the popular Tirolese author known under the pen name of Reimichl, died at Bad Hall, Tirol, at the age of 87. He had been active as a Catholic priest at Bad Hall since 1914. More than one million copies of his books, including some 50 novels and short stories, have been sold

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